Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method of preparing a compound of formula

fac-$[M(CO)_3L_x]^n$ (II)

comprising reacting a ligand L_x with a compound of formula (I)

fac-$[M(CO)_3(OH_2)_3]^+$ (I)

wherein:

M is Mn, ^{99m}Tc, ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re;

L_x is ~~a~~ an aminopolycarboxylate multidentate ligand; and

n is a charge of the ligand L_x increased with one + charge;.

~~comprising reacting a compound of formula (I) prepared according to claim 1 with ligand L_x.~~

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the reaction with ligand L_x takes place in the presence of a halide.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said method is performed between about 20EC and 100EC.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said method is performed at about 75EC.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said aminopolycarboxylate ligand is selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA), iminodiacetic acid (IDA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), and triazacyclononanetriacetate.

Claim 13(original): The method of claim 6 wherein said ligand is not bidentate.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein said ligand is tridentate.

Claim 15 (original): A compound of formula

fac-$[M(CO)_3L_x]^n$ (II)

wherein:

M is Mn, ^{99m}Tc, ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re;

L_x is a multidentate aminopolycarboxylate ligand; and

n is the sum of the charge of the ligands L_x.

Claim 16 (original): The compound of claim 15, wherein L_x is not a bidentate ligand.

Claim 17-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (original): A kit for carrying out the method of claim 6, comprising a lyophilized formulation including a basic borate buffer, a reducing agent soluable in water but not substantially decomposed by water and a metal M which is Mn, ^{99m}Tc, ^{186}Re or ^{188}Re.

Claim 24 (original): The kit of claim 23 wherein said reducing agent is KBH_4.

Claim 25 (original): The kit of claim 23 wherein said formulation further includes lactose.

Claim 26 (original): The kit of claim 23 wherein said formulation further includes L-tartaric acid.

Claim 27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (currently amended): The kit of claim ~~27~~ 23 wherein L_x is not a bidentate ligand.

Claim 29 (new): The compound of claim 15 wherein said aminopolycarboxylate ligand is selected from the group consisting of diethylenetriamine-pentaacetic acid (DTPA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA), iminodiacetic acid (IDA), nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), and triazacyclononanetriacetate.

Remarks

Applicants have canceled claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17-22 and 27. Independent claims 6 and 15, dependent claims 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, and new dependent claim 29 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been amended to overcome the rejections of the Examiner, as discussed below. Claims 7 and 10-12 depend from the amended claim 6. Claims 23, 24 and 28 also depend from the amended claim 6. New claim 29 depends from claim 15. Applicants submit that this Amendment will place the application in condition for allowance.